

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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REPORT NO.

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2. [redacted] a patent granted on 14 November 1951 by the East German Patent Office for a device facilitating the conversion of railroad cars from standard to Soviet gauge and vice versa. [redacted] The method used for the conversion of freight cars consists in the shifting of wheels on their axles. Individual cars or entire trains are slowly being pushed over a special gauge change track, which automatically effects the conversion to either Soviet or standard gauge. The brakes of the cars are adjusted simultaneously with the wheels.²

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2. [redacted] Comment. A railroad car which is capable of being converted to both wide (Soviet) and standard (European) gauge was on exhibit at the Leipzig Fall Fair. [redacted] the manufacture of such convertible cars was started at the Lova plants in Niesky and Dessau in December 1952. [redacted] . Whether the technical design of these cars agrees with the system patented by the East German Patent Office is not yet clear. However, it is believed that the basic principle applied is essentially the same. This invention is of the greatest

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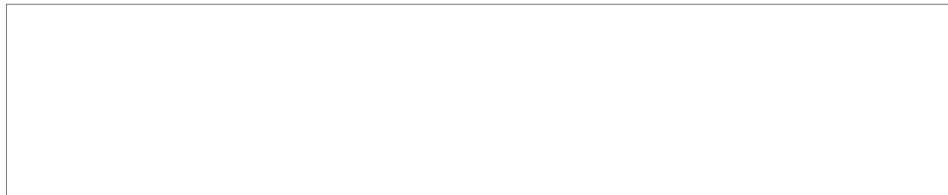
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importance for the Soviets, above all in the event of war.



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